

REMARKS

8. Claims 9, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over pages 1-5 of the specification and figures 9 and 10 of the specification in view of Sebelist et al.

Pages 1-5 of the specification describes problems with past trimming machines. These problems include the moving block and pressing plate being limited to short strokes. In addition, time is wasted by using these machines because the height of the moving block is set at a maximum, even in instances where a thin bundle is to be trimmed. Another problem with these trimmers is that the number of booklets have to be counted on site for each trimming, which results in additional lost time.

Sebelist et al. discloses an apparatus that compresses articles prior to strapping the articles. The strapping mechanism 10 has a frame 12, platen 14, motor drive assembly 20, control panel 30 and a linear transducer 22. Articles 50 to be strapped are placed on a conveyor 40. As the articles 50 approach the frame, photocells 54 measure the height of the articles 50, and the platen 14 is moved to a height above the articles 50. Once under the platen 14, the articles 50 are stopped and the platen 14 is lowered by a motor assembly 20. When the platen 14 contacts the articles 50, it places a load, predetermined by the controller 30, on the articles 50. When the predetermined load is reached, strapping 56 is placed around the articles 50 through strapping heads 32. A transducer 22, which is a variable resistor, is attached to flange 31. The resistance across the transducer 22 is proportional or varies in accordance with the distance 23, which is exhibited in response to movement of the flange 26.

Applicant is unable to find any teaching or suggestion in these references that they can be combined to arrive at the claimed invention. In particular, currently amended claim 9 now calls for, in part, the following:

"a second driving mechanism for driving the movable block to move between a waiting position, which is positioned over the booklet bundle, and a working position wherein the movable block pinches the booklet bundle in cooperation with the fixed block, characterized in that the three-side trimmer comprises a means for measuring a height of the booklet bundle when the booklet bundle is held by the conveying means; and

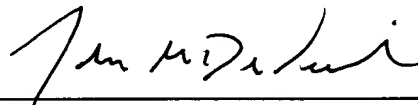
a means for control in a controlling type relationship with the first driving mechanism and the second driving mechanism the means for control adjusting the waiting position of the pressing plate or the waiting position of the movable block of the chuck mechanism or both correspondingly with the height of the booklet bundle according to a value measured by the means for measuring before the pressing plate and the movable block of the chuck mechanism initiate a next operation. . ."

This claimed structure is different than what is disclosed in the references, because neither of the references discloses measuring the height of the bundle in a conveying means and adjusting the waiting positions of the pressing plate or movable block, or both according to a value measured by the means for measuring. Therefore, it appears that the cited references cannot be combined or modified to arrive at the claimed invention, since they do not disclose the claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 be withdrawn, and that these claims be allowed.

9. Applicant respectfully requests that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office acknowledge receipt of the priority document, accept and consider the concise explanation of the references not in the English language, enter the amended Abstract, and withdraw the rejections of claims 9 and 10 and allow currently amended claims 9 and 10.

Respectfully submitted,



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